

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 05362

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJECT: SOHYO INVITATION TO AFL-CIO

REF: (A) TOKYO 3822, (B) TOKYO 4818

1. SUMMARY. LABOR MINISTRY CONSIDERS SOHYO INVITATION TO AFL-CIO AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF NEW SOHYO LEADERSHIP'S INTENTION TO MOVE ORGANIZATION IN DIRECTION OF MODERATION. MOL DOES NOT THINK THAT, IN FINAL ANALYSIS, DOMEI WILL OPPOSE AFL-CIO ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION. END SUMMARY.
2. MINISTRY OF LABOR DEPUTY VICE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IWATA TOLD LABATT MARCH 30 THAT MOL CONSIDERED SOHYO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA'S INVITATION TO AFL-CIO TO ATTEND SOHYO'S NEXT CONVENTION (REFTELS) AS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT SINCE NEW LEADERSHIP TOOK OVER IN 1976, SOHYO MOVING UNMISTAKABLY, IF HESITANTLY, IN MODERATE DIRECTION. IWATA RECALLED THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING ELECTED, MAKIEDA TOOK
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INITIATIVE IN SEEKING RAPPROCHEMENT WITH AFL-CIO, AND HE NOTED THAT BOTH MAKIEDA AND TOMIZUKA CAREFULLY AVOIDED USE OF SOHYO'S OLD MARXIST SLOGANS AND IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS STRESSED NEED FOR SOHYO TO STRENGTHEN ITS TIES WITH "COUNTERPARTS" IN CAPITALIST SOCIETIES OF WESTERN EUROPE AND U.S. IWATA SAID THAT AFTER DEPARTURE OF RECENT AFL-CIO DELEGATION, HE HAD HEARD FROM SOHYO OFFICIAL

THAT MAKIEDA AND TOMIZUKA, TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MIS-
UNDERSTANDING OF SOHYO'S MOTIVES, HAD RULED OUT INVITATION
TO COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LABOR FEDERATIONS IN FRANCE AND
ITALY AND WOULD LIMIT INVITATIONS TO MAJOR ICFTU
AFFILIATES IN WESTERN EUROPE (BRITISH TUC, WEST GERMAN
DGB AND POSSIBLY SWEDISH LO). IWATA OFFERED AS HIS
PERSONAL VIEW THAT SOHYO HAD NOW GONE AS FAR AS IT
POSSIBLY COULD IN MEETING WHAT IT HAD ASSUMED WERE AFL-
CIO'S CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF CONVENTION INVITATION.
3. IWATA ASKED ABOUT AFL-CIO REACTION TO SOHYO INVITATION.
LABATT SAID THAT AT RECENT LABOR ATTACHE CONFERENCE
IN NEW DELHI, AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR
LEE TOLD HIM THAT WHILE AFL-CIO DELEGATION RESPECTED
MAKIEDA'S SINCERITY IN ISSUING INVITATION, THEY WERE
SKEPTICAL WHETHER THIS REALLY REPRESENTED BASIC CHANGE
IN SOHYO'S ORIENTATION. FURTHERMORE, LEE MADE CLEAR
THAT AFL-CIO WOULD NOT ACCEPT SOHYO INVITATION UNLESS
IT RECEIVED GREEN LIGHT FROM ITS GOOD FRIENDS IN DOMEI.
LEE BELIEVES THAT DOMEI WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE AFL-CIO
REPRESENTATIVES ON A SOHYO CONVENTION PLATFORM.
4. IWATA SAID THAT AS RESULT OF A RECENT CONVENTION
WITH DOMEI OFFICERS (WHOM HE DID NOT IDENTIFY), HE
HAD DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT WHILE DOMEI NOT ENTHUSIASTIC
ABOUT AFL-CIO ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION, IN THE END IT
WOULD REFRAIN FROM ADVISING AFL-CIO NOT TO ATTEND BECAUSE
IT WOULD NOT WANT IT THOUGHT THAT IT HAD PLACED OBSTACLE
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IN PATH OF THOSE IN SOHYO TRYING TO DEVELOP MORE
RESPONSIBLE AND REALISTIC POLICIES. MANSFIELD

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